

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 6, 15 and 16 were rejected.

Claims 5, 7-14 and 17-24 were objected to.

Various claims are amended as set forth herein, and Claims 1 and 15 have been canceled.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-3 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ottosson, *et al.* (US Patent No. 6480558 B1, hereinafter Ottosson). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ottosson in view of Bayley (U. S. Patent No. 6101173 hereinafter Bayley). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ottosson, *et al.* in view of Betts (U. S. Patent No. 5610953 hereinafter Betts).

Claims 5, 7-14 and 17-24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 5 and 17, and various other claims, have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, and other claims have been amended or cancelled as appropriate. All rejections and objections are believed to be moot, and all claims are in condition for allowance.

The aforementioned rejections are respectfully traversed.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant asserts that the remaining Claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an early allowance of such Claims.

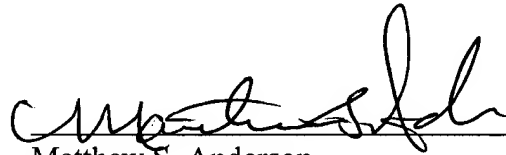
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *manderson@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Davis Munck Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 11/9/4


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